Borough of Chippenham Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report and Tabular Statistics for 1909.

(ABBREVIATED).

Table 1. BIRTHS and DEATHS.

YEAR.	Population.	Births.		Deaths under 1 year old.		Total Deaths	
		No.	Rate per 1000 of Population.	No.	Rate per 1000 of Births.	No.	Rate per 1000 of Population
1899	4618	139	30·0	16	3·46	75	16·2
1900	,,	108	23·3	11	2·38	63	13·64
1901	5074	122	24·2	9	1·7	66	13·0
1902	,,	129	25·4	14	2·7	72	14·1
1903	,,	130	25·6	10	1·9	62	12·2
1904	,,	131	25·8	8	1·5	55	10·8
1905	,,	117	23·05	6	1·18	41	8·08
1906	,,	128	25·22	9	1·77	71	13·99
1907	,,	116	22·86	14	2·7	75	14·75
1908	,,	118	23·25	5	·98	57	11·23
Average of	foregoing	123·8	24·5	10·2	1·4	63·7	12·4
1909	5074	125	24·63	7	1·37	46	9·06

There were 6 Deaths of Borough persons in the Rural District, viz.: in the Union Workhouse and at the Isolation Hospital, and the number of deaths 46 includes 3 cases of death at the Cottage Hospital of which 1 did not belong to the Borough,

Making the Total Figures attributable to the District .. 51 10·05

Number of Inhabited Houses in Borough—1901 Census .. 1185, now estimated at 1277

Average Number of Persons per House .. .. .. 4·3 ,, 3·9

Table 2 does not apply to Chippenham.

Table 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	No.	Sent to Isolation Hospital.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)..	13	9
Erysipelas	4	..
Scarlet Fever	4	2
Totals	21	11

Tabe 4. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

CAUSE.	Total No.	Ages. Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 or above
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	1	1	.	..	..		..
Phthisis	3	..	..	..	..	3	..
Cancer	6	..	..	..	..	4	2
Bronchitis	6	1	..	..	1	1	3
Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Disease	4	..	..	..	..	1	3
Accidents (died at Cottage Hospital) . ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
All other causes (2 at Cottage Hospital) ..	27	4	3	..	..	8	12
Total .	51	7	4		1	17	22

Table 5. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Diarrhœa Diseases, 1 viz.	1	Death in 4th month
Wasting Diseases, 3	1	,, in 4th week
	1	,, in 5th month
	1	,, in 12th month
Tuberculous Disease	1	,, in 2nd month
Other causes, 2 viz.	1	,, under 1 week
	1	,, in 11th month

	Births	Deaths
Legitimate	123	7
Illegitimate	2	0

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

Incidence of Disease. The Tables I have just read to you are so complete in the information they give that little is left for me to discourse upon. In Table 3, we find 13 cases of Diphtheria notified. These were distributed over the whole area of the District, there was no noteworthy outbreak, cases occurred in the months of January, February, July, August, September, October and December, in most instances it was impossible to trace the origin of the Disease. There were 4 cases of Scarlatina in June, October and November, these were attributed to personal contact.

There is an increase in the Birth rate and we can congratulate ourselves on a very low death rate which was 8·08 in 1905. 10·08 in 1904.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted.

Physical Features. Through the Town runs a bend of the River Avon entering at the South East, looping round on the North, and passing out at the South. The Eastern half of the River bend is at a higher level than the Western half, being kept up 6 or 8 feet by a Mill and Weir near the Town Bridge. Most of the new Houses have been erected on the North side of the River. Into the Southern portion of the Town runs a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal at a higher level than the River and not communicating with it, the Canal is now little used. The Town lies in a valley, having higher ground on every side, still, almost everywhere it stands well above the River level and has well marked regular slopes towards each part of the stream.

The soil of the Town is corn brash, to the South East and West of the Town this corn brash is covered in many parts with a considerable depth of Oxford Clay.

Industries. The principal Industries are, in the Southern portion, a large Milk Factory, a Cloth Factory, and in the Northern portion a large Iron Works, 2 Bacon Curing Companies, and a smaller Iron Works, none of these works or occupations influence the public health.

In common with other Towns the presence of bad trade is felt by the inhabitants here, there are some unemployed and many working part time. There are however a variety of industries in Chippenham, some of which are in full work, hence it happens that if one member of a family is thrown out of work one or two other members working in a different factory may be employed.

The increasing population within the past ten years has demanded an increase in house accommodation for working class people, private enterprise has resulted in the building of a large number of new Houses, and these have been supplemented by a private company who build a large number of good class artizan dwellings just without the Urban District; these new Streets are all 36 feet wide.

The Urban houses are inspected by your Surveyor before occupation, the plans being submitted to you before erection. There is now little difficulty for a family to obtain a sufficiently large house provided they can pay the rent.

No action has been taken or needed under Parts 1, 2, & 3, respectively of the housing of the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Water Supply. This is derived from a well the property of the Authority, the quality as shown by Analysis taken from time to time is excellent and the quantity is abundant. It is distributed over the whole district in pipes and is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

For some years at uncertain times, conditions, and places, a quantity of rust was found in the water also a peculiar smell was discernible. To remedy these conditions if possible your Council called in the aid of Dr. Rideal. I beg to append his report.

Milk Supply. This part of Wiltshire being a great dairy district it is not surprising that we find here excellent and abundant milk on sale. There are nine Milksellers registered—the milk is in almost all cases brought into the Town in cans from the various farms. These farms, as well as the Milk Shops themselves, are inspected by your Medical Officer. They were found with one exception to be in good order. No imported milk is used. No sample of milk has been examined for evidence of Tubercle.

Other Foods. There is an excellent supply of first quality butchers meat to be found in this Town. There is also good foreign meat sold, wholesome in quality. Your Officers, aided by the police, do all in their power to prevent the flesh of diseased animals being sold. The meat and fish sold in the Market Place is frequently inspected by myself and the slaughter houses are also inspected. No legal proceedings have been taken nor were they needed.

One Slaughter house has been entirely re-constructed. The Wiltshire Bacon Factory has been regularly inspected by Mr. Adams, and the bacon for export examined. These premises are all that can be desired and are entirely free from nuisance. Your Council have made no arrangements for the inspection of meat except such inspections as are made by Mr. Adams and myself. There are four ordinary Slaughter houses, these are visited about four times a year. There are besides, two large bacon curing establishments, these are inspected more frequently. No carcases have been condemned.

Fish Inspections. The inspection of Fish is also carried out including that which is exposed for sale in the Market Place. One lot of fish was condemned, but this had not been exposed for sale.

Sewerage. An extensive system of sewerage on appoved methods has been in use for some four years now throughout the whole Town, these works are giving satisfaction and producing a good effluent. The outfall and tanks are under the care of an expert workman acting under the advice and instruction of your Surveyor (Mr. Adams). There have been complaints of smells from these tanks which have been dealt with as far as was possible at the time. The whole of the sewerage of the Town ultimately reach this sewerage system. 170 yards of 9" Sewer have been laid at the rear of Blind Lane and properly ventilated with Manholes and Ventilating columns. 30 yards of sewer have been laid in the Butts. Two new Manholes have been built on the sewer in the Market yard. All these sewers are laid to give a Self-Cleansing velocity.

There are 1075 privies within the district, of these 1060 are connected with the sewerage system. This year 51 Midden and Earth Closets have been converted to efficient Water Closets and connected to the new sewers with properly laid and ventilated drains.

House Refuse and Scavenging. This work is carried out by your Council, refuse being removed 3 times a week from all parts of the Town.

Lodging Houses. There are two Lodging Houses registered, these have been inspected by me.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this Town.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected and the Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of the Schools were found to be satisfactory,

During the last year I have attended your Committee Meetings and reported the Zymotic cases notified during the preceding month.

Special inspections were also made at the homes or districts where epidemic disease was present or had been present, and as a result several unhealthy conditions were removed. Printed instructions for disinfection were distributed at every house where infectious disease was present, and on the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, or the recovery of the patient, the rooms were fumigated by your Surveyor.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. A recent order of the Local Government Board compels District Medical Officers to notify cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis among poor persons under their care, and this order came into force on January 1st, 1908. I expect, the order foreshadows a general notification of all cases of consumption. Two cases were notified this year.

Midwives Act. My attention has not been called to any breach of rules governing midwives working in your district.

Infant Mortality. The number of deaths, among infants under one year old, does not call for comment from me. I have distributed to mothers a small number of Pamphlets giving advice upon the feeding and management of children which I think have been of use.

Inspection of School Children. The School children are inspected by Medical Officers appointed by the County Council. My relations with these Officers are intimate and cordial.

The Isolation Hospital. This Hospital was in use most months of the year. During the time it was closed, the interval was utilized for a general clean up, thorough disinfection and the carrying out of some necessary repairs. Last year I reported to the Joint Committee that the wards for the treatment of Diphtheria were not at all times sufficiently large for the number of patients seeking admission, and steps are now being taken to improve and increase the accommodation. Fifty-eight patients have been admitted during the year, and of these 11 came from the Urban District viz :—2 cases of Scarlatina, and nine of Diphtheria, whilst 47 cases came from the Rural District viz :— 36 cases of Diphtheria, and 11 cases of Scarlatina. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who kindly sent toys, books, illustrated papers, and children's clothes to the Hospital, all are much appreciated, children's clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find garments for the little ones when they are about to leave the warm wards for their draughty cottage home.

Infectious Disease. In your district upon the receipt of a notification either of Scarlatina or Diphtheria, (if the friends of the patient are willing) the case is removed in an ambulance in charge of a Nurse, to the Isolation Hospital. The house or room is disinfected as soon after the removal as possible by your inspector, 17 rooms have been fumigated with Sulphic Dioxide (SO_2) after infectious disease, and in every case the premises have been thoroughly inspected by Mr. Adams your Surveyor.

In Company with your Surveyor I made a systematic house to house inspection of the whole district, special attention being given to the courts and yards all of which, save one, are paved with impervious material. I observed the large number of connections which have been made between houses and the new sewers. Mr. Adams also drew my attention to the sewer gradients. As a result of these inspections a considerable number of nuisances were discovered and removed, I found the river free from pollution, the water clear and the banks free from deposit or sediment. All the factories, workshops, and workplaces have been inspected and found in good order, also the bakehouses. There is no underground bakehouse in the Town.

These, Gentlemen, are some of the more important Sanitary matters which have engaged your attention, and the attention of your Officers during the past year. I have to thank Mr. Adams for his ready aid and prompt action in dealing with many small matters which did not come before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, M.D., B.A.

27th January, 1910.